

YEAR 2000 MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN SET TO BEGIN

**by Jeffrey A. Apperson
Membership Chair**

The Federal Court Clerks' Association has set a goal of reaching 2,000 members by the year 2000. As I'm sure all of you know, setting a goal is the easy part; reaching it is another matter.

Can we do it? The answer will be determined by the level of each member's commitment to this organization. That commitment will soon be tested, as the membership campaign will begin October 1 and end November 30. One thing is certain: We have a committed president in Sam Hamrick.

Where are we now? We currently have 1,421 members which includes 72 clerks. Therefore, not only do we need each current member to renew, but we need 579 new members. That number may seem daunting, but when you think about it, there are 94 districts with at least three court units and 13 circuit courts. We only need about five new members for each court. We can do this!

One of the most common themes I heard in Miami Beach was that many prospective members question why they should join – the “What's in it for me?” issue. There are several answers to this question. Numerous awards are given for outstanding service. They are as follows:

- Up to five special service awards to deputy clerks;
- Special Service Foundation Award - \$1,500 for front-line deputy clerks;
- Service awards for 25 years of service;
- Carol Fitzgerald Scholarship;
- Ross Levy Memorial Award.

In addition to the awards, we care about members of courts in need. We have had fund raisers for employees affected by the bombing in Oklahoma City, the tornadoes in Nashville, the hurricanes in Miami and Charleston, as well as for the floods in North Dakota. In addition, our leave sharing program has been very effective when there is a call for assistance. Also, the opportunities provided for networking with your fellow workers have proven very beneficial. I know our court has benefitted from information sharing. All of these reasons are important; however, I have a personal reason for being a member. The FCCA offers me an opportunity to express my pride and commitment to the Federal Judiciary. The idea of what the Federal Judiciary stands for, the protection of liberty, is one that I will always cherish. The organization essentially allows us to voice individual values. The more members we have, the greater the voice.

There will be several changes in the membership drive from last year. First, we now have a membership committee that is composed of the following members:

- Nadine Smith–Western Kentucky
- Helene McCormick–Western Kentucky
- Donna Craig–Middle Tennessee
- Sharon Howard–Middle Tennessee

Sheila M. Beauchene–North Dakota
Maria Carpenter–Connecticut
Susan Rigan–Western Michigan
Edith Jazmin–New Jersey
Betsy West–Southern Georgia

We have campaign buttons being sent to all district and circuit representatives. We have revised the membership forms and brochure, and we hope to find better ways to award outstanding performance at the district level for membership improvements.

There will also be information included regarding the FCCA Foundation. The Foundation is composed of former Clerks of Court that served our judiciary well. Please support them.

I ask all of you for your help this year. To the unit executives, please support our drive. You can make all the difference.